

ANTON BERNHARD BLIKSTAD

JUNE 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 870]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 870) for the relief of Anton Bernhard Blikstad, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That for the purposes of the immigration and naturalization laws, Anton Bernhard Blikstad, shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of this Act, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. Upon the granting of permanent residence to such alien as provided for in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper quota officer to deduct one number from the appropriate quota for the first year that such quota is available.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill, as amended, is to grant permanent residence in the United States to a native of Spain and a citizen of Norway. The bill also provides for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax and for the appropriate quota deduction.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The pertinent facts in this case are contained in a letter, dated October 7, 1949, from the Acting Assistant to the Attorney General, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, regarding a bill

(H. R. 2857) then pending for the relief of the same individual. The said letter reads as follows:

OCTOBER 7, 1949.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 2857) for the relief of Anton Bernhard Blikstad, an alien.

The bill would direct the Attorney General, in the administration of the immigration and naturalization laws, to record the lawful admission for permanent residence of Anton Bernhard Blikstad as of January 18, 1949, at New York, N. Y., and would direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service disclose that the alien was born in Spain on October 29, 1922, and that he is a citizen of Norway. He first entered the United States in 1946, remaining until April 1948, and last entered at the port of New York on January 18, 1949, when he was admitted as a temporary visitor until July 17, 1949. He has not received any extensions of his temporary stay. Further proceedings, however, were ordered held in abeyance pending consideration of the instant bill.

The alien has not been employed in this country. He has been a student or observer at the Clemson Bros., Inc., plant at Middletown, N. Y., manufacturers of lawn mowers and metal-cutting devices. He stated that his parents in Norway are willing and able to finance his stay in the United States.

The quota of Spain, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed for many years and a visa is not readily obtainable. His case is similar to those of many other aliens who desire to enter the United States for permanent residence but who are unable to do so because of the oversubscribed condition of the quotas to which they are chargeable. The record presents no facts which would justify enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over other aliens who are awaiting their turn for immigration visas.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the bill.

Yours sincerely,

PETER CAMPBELL BROWN,
Acting the Assistant to the Attorney General.

Mrs. St. George, the author of this bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary and urged the enactment of her measure, submitting the following statements in support of H. R. 870:

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., May 14, 1951.

Re H. R. 870, relief of Anton B. Blikstad.

HON. KATHERINE ST. GEORGE,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: Pursuant to your request of May 8, I am enclosing herewith Mr. Blikstad's affidavit, as well as several statements from local organizations.

We are now looking forward to encouraging news from your office.

Your attention and efforts in this matter are highly appreciated by all concerned.

Very truly yours,

FRANKLIN A. SCHRIEVER.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
County of Orange, ss:

Anton Bernhard Blikstad, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That the deponent has not at any time been a member of, or associated with, any Fascist or totalitarian organization or group in any nation.

BERNHARD BLIKSTAD.

Sworn to before me this 11th day of May 1951.

BEATRICE R. GAMEYS, *Notary Public.*

MIDDLETOWN POST 151, AMERICAN LEGION,
Middletown, N. Y., May 14, 1951.

To Whom It May Concern:

Bernhard Blikstad has been a resident of the community for over 3 years and we have acquired a personal knowledge of his background and his military achievements during the late war in Norway.

Knowing Mr. Blikstad and his interest in community affairs, we can highly recommend his application for citizenship in this country.

Yours truly,

DONALD BEAKES, *Post Adjutant.*

WALL, COMMUNITY BROADCASTING CORP.,
Middletown, N. Y., May 11, 1951.

Re Anton Bernhard Blikstad.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a major in the Marine Corps Reserve, I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Anton Bernhard Blikstad. I have known Mr. Blikstad for the past 3 years and am familiar with his excellent and courageous work in the late war on the side of the Allies.

His activity in civic affairs and in athletics is highly regarded in our community.

I would make no reservation in recommending him for citizenship of our country.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE F. SHEPARD.

MIDDLETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Middletown, N. Y., May 11, 1951.

Re Anton Bernhard Blikstad.

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure as president of the Middletown Chamber of Commerce to highly recommend Anton Bernhard Blikstad. I have known him for the last 3 years and cannot say enough for his sincerity, integrity, and community interest.

It seems to me fitting that young men of his type express their desire to be citizens of these United States and just as fitting that our men of Government authority grant them the privilege of citizenship.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH W. THOMPSON, *President.*

Upon consideration of all the facts in this case, the committee is of the opinion that H. R. 870, as amended, should be enacted and it accordingly recommends that the bill do pass.

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